GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4423
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2000
MIGRATION PACKAGE
ANANTRAO GUDHE

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the observation made by CAG that the migration package has amounted to undue favour to licensees and double concession to private telephone companies; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) to (b): Sir, a paragraph titled `Package of concessions to existing Cellular and Basic Telephone Service Operators`has been included in the Report of Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C&AG) for the year ended March, 1999 (No. 6 of 2000).

Government have not accepted the observations made the Audit at the Draft Audit para stage and have indicated that the policy regarding migration of the existing licensees to the New Telecom Policy-1999 (NTP-99) regime of revenue sharing arrangementwas formulated as a result of informed and institutionalized decision in best public interest making pragmatic adjustments warranted by ground realities in relation to the Telecom Industry. The uniform application of NTP-99 all over the country would ensure growth of telecom sector by bringing in multipoly, better accessibility and improved/cost effective service to customers and is important for achieving the objectives of New Telecom Policy.